**Divorce: A Christian Perspective**

***Why does God allow divorce?***

1. Hardness of people’s hearts
2. This is not God’s plan; He intends marriage to last a lifetime
3. God never commands divorce
4. God allows divorce because some people cannot forgive an immoral spouse and others will not change their immoral ways

***What does “divorce” mean?***

Biblical words for divorce mean…

1. To cut
2. To drive away or cast out
3. To separate

***Legal grounds for divorce***

1. Old Testament
   1. Lack of virginity (Deut. 22)
   2. Indecency (literally nudity which implies sexual impurity) (Deut. 24)
2. New Testament
   1. Sexual immorality (Matt. 5 & 19)
   2. Desertion (1 Cor. 7)
3. There are no statements to support other reasons!

***Basic causes of divorce***

1. Mankind’s basic desire to be god and have absolute control
2. An inability/unwillingness to accept differences between the sexes
3. An inability/unwillingness to forgive

***Why does God limit divorce?*** (since we are sinful and imperfect)

1. Without God’s limits, we probably would not limit ourselves.
2. God’s word says that marriage is a picture of His relationship with the church and when we choose not to abide by his standards we tarnish his reputation

***Is remarriage permissible?***

1. When the ­­­­Click here to enter text. spouse divorces because of Click here to enter text. by the other spouse.
2. When a Click here to enter text. spouse has been Click here to enter text. by an unbelieving spouse.
3. What about Christians who divorce without biblical justification?
   1. Some say they can Click here to enter text. remarry. (This view seems to make the sin Click here to enter text..)
   2. Some say they can remarry Click here to enter text. (and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) their ex-spouse remarries.
   3. Some say they can remarry if they are truly Click here to enter text..

***How should the church deal with divorce?***

1. Divorce is not the Click here to enter text.!
2. There is no problem when Click here to enter text. standards apply
3. People divorced for reasons other than biblically sanctioned ones should not hold Click here to enter text. positions. (This is Click here to enter text. in some places.)

***Should people be treated differently based on the reasons for divorce?***

1. Those who are “innocent” of Click here to enter text. should not face additional consequences.
2. Those who have sinned should face Click here to enter text. just like others who sin (Matthew 18).

***How is society affected?***

1. Individuals
   1. No one is left Click here to enter text..
   2. Many people lose a sense of Click here to enter text. and Click here to enter text..
   3. Many become Click here to enter text. at others and even at God (for not Click here to enter text. their marriage).
2. Families
   1. Many single-parent families live at or below Click here to enter text. after divorce
   2. Many children are forced (explicitly or implicitly) to Click here to enter text. between their parents.
   3. Children receive conflicting messages about Click here to enter text., Click here to enter text., Click here to enter text., etc.
3. The Church
   1. It causes conflict because not everyone treats the issue the Click here to enter text..
   2. It brings Click here to enter text. from many outside the church.
   3. It causes people to be labeled as “Click here to enter text..”

***Society’s effect on Christians***

1. The average Click here to enter text. does not view divorce any differently than Click here to enter text.
2. Many view it as an easy, Click here to enter text. solution to a difficult situation.
3. With divorce so common, many churches do not deal with its Click here to enter text.
4. Many cheapen God’s Click here to enter text. by going ahead with sin because He is a “God who Click here to enter text..” They forget that God Click here to enter text. those he loves (Hebrews 12:6-12).

***This issue must be faced***

1. All churches are affected by divorce
2. The world encourages the idea that divorce is an easy solution to a “bad” situation.
3. The church needs to help couples…
   1. Click here to enter text. for marriage
   2. Maintain Click here to enter text. marriages